## II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1-31 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue the Claims of Group II)

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated *Babesia canis* associated protein, said protein having a molecular weight of ~~15 kD~~ about 15 kD when determined by SDS-gel electrophoresis under reducing conditions and comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
33. (Original) The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 85% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
34. (Original) The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 90% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
35. (Original) The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 95% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.

Claims 36-63 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue the Invention of Group II)

64. (Currently Amended) A vaccine for combating *Babesia canis* infections, comprising an immunogen selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein according to Claim 32 and a protein according to Claim 32, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
65. (Previously Amended) The vaccine of claim 36 further comprising an adjuvant.
66. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim 36 further comprising an additional antigen ~~derived~~ obtainable from a virus or microorganism pathogenic to dogs or a nucleic acid sequence encoding said antigen.

67. (Previously Amended) The vaccine according to claim 38, wherein said virus or micro-organism pathogenic to dogs is selected from the group of *Ehrlichia canis, Babesia gibsoni, vogeli, rossi, Leishmania donovani*-complex, Canine parvovirus, Canine distempervirus, *Leptospira interrogans serovar canicola, icterohaemorrhagiae, pomona, grippotyphosa, bratislava,* Canine hepatitisvirus, Canine parainfluenzavirus, rabies virus, *Hepatozoon canis* and *Borrelia burgdorferi.*